

Agenda Date: September 08, 2004
Item Number: A8

Docket: UW-041270
Company Name: Rainier View Water Company, Inc.

Staff: Danny Kermode, Regulatory Analyst

Recommendation:

Dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Rainier View Water Company, Inc., in Docket UW-041270; accept the substitute tariff filing and allow the tariff to become effective September 9, 2004.

Discussion:

Rainier View Water Company, Inc., (Rainier View or Company) serves approximately 13,400 customers in Pierce County near Spanaway. On July 14, 2004, the Company filed an *Irrigation Service* tariff. At the August 25, 2004, open meeting, the Commission suspended the filing. The Commission expressed concerns that the definition of the Customer class could be unclear, and noted that the use of both cubic feet and gallons could contribute to possible confusion in applying the tariff.

In addition, there was confusion regarding the application of an increased conservation rate filed in Docket UW-041384. The Company stated at the August 25, 2004, open meeting it intended for the increase to apply to irrigation customers and would file to clarify. The Commission suspended the proposed increase at the open meeting and it remains suspended. The Commission is not considering the proposed increased rate in this docket.

In its substitute tariff filing, the Company clarifies the definition of an irrigation customer by defining it as a customer receiving service for primary irrigation purposes and the service is provided to lots that are not buildable, or are designated as open space on filed plats, or as agreed to in contract. Incidental use for drinking fountains or other domestic consumption shall not change the primary use for irrigation purposes.

The Company simplified the conservation provision of the filed tariff. Though keeping the same volume of water as the curtailment threshold the Company converted the measurement from 55,845 gallons to 7,466 cubic feet. The reworded provision allows the Company to restrict or discontinue service if water usage exceeds a total of 7,466 cubic feet of water during the five-month period beginning May 1 and ending September 30 of

each year. Though the substitute tariff has removed the statement regarding the origin of the 7,466 cubic-foot threshold, Staff believes that it be understood that the 7,466 cubic feet of water represents an average of 48.79 cubic feet per day per customer. The 48.79 cubic feet per day is the designed system average water consumption for an average customer or stated using engineering jargon, one Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). All current irrigation customers are one ERU customers. It is the Company's intent in proposing the curtailment provision of this tariff to reduce irrigation customers' consumption to the level of one ERU on the average over the five-month period.

In its substitute tariff, Rainier View has removed proposed rates from the irrigation tariff but instead the Company has pegged irrigation rates to the rates for water service under the Company's schedule 1 as shown below.

<u>Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Schedule 1</u>
Schedule 1 Metered Rate (includes 500 cubic feet)	\$15.80
Over 500 cubic feet per 100 cubic feet	0.85

Conclusion

The changes in Rainier View's substitute tariff satisfactorily address the concerns of the Commission and Staff expressed this in the August 25, 2004, Open Meeting therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Rainier View Water Company, Inc., in Docket UW-041270, accept substitute tariff filing and allow tariff to become effective September 9, 2004.